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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 001665

SIPDIS

WHA/CAR
INL/LP PASS TO ABAGAIL SMITH

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TAGS: [EFIN](#) [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: HAITI: CERTIFICATION REPORT CARD, 2005

REF: STATE 94578

Classified By: Ambassador James B. Foley for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (U) Following is the narcotics certification report card 2005 for Haiti, requested refel.

12. (U) The Interim Government of Haiti (IGOH) worked closely with the United States Government (USG) throughout 2004 to help bolster Haiti's ability to combat narco-trafficking. The highest levels of the IGOH cooperated closely with the USG to stem corruption, arrest drug traffickers, seize assets, better utilize the Haitian National Police (HNP), and create a drug strategy. However, the IGOH's top-down anti-drug and anti-corruption push has been stymied by the corruption and incompetence that pervades Haiti's government offices, parastatals and police force. Haiti's dysfunctional judicial system also helped frustrate IGOH efforts to crack down on corruption and drugs. Though the Haitian constitution mandates that criminals be charged within 48 hours of their arrest, only a handful of prisoners in Haiti's prison population of over 1,200 have actually been charged with a crime.

Anti-Corruption

13. (C) At USG urging, the IGOH has taken some important steps to curb corruption in Haiti, however not all of its measures have been effective. HNP Director General, Leon Charles, charged 200 officers with corruption and fired them. In addition, Charles formed a Rapid Response Unit (RRU) to conduct drug investigations and carry out arrests, bypassing some elements of the historically corrupt anti-narcotics unit, the BLTS (Bureau de la Lutte contre le Traffic de Stupifiants). However, the RRU has proved corrupt as well; the DEA reports that the RRU accepted a bribe of roughly USD 40,000 to release Frantz Michel Jeanty after DEA agents arrested him in Cap Haitien. Finally, the IGOH has created an Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) in the Ministry of Finance to investigate and eliminate government corruption, however it has been poorly managed and has not yet produced significant results.

Fraud Investigation Unit

14. (U) The Haitian Fraud Investigation Unit (FIU) has worked with the USG through the DEA and the Narcotic Affairs Section (NAS) of the Embassy to investigate fraud and drug trafficking, particularly that associated with former President Aristide's administration. Both DEA and NAS have had mixed results working with the FIU. Although the FIU has been instrumental in seizing drug assets, the former FIU director, who resigned in early June, was obstructionist. NAS reports that he forbade any investigation in his absence, stopped going to work and moved all of the FIU's most important files into his locked office, which effectively halted all investigative work and prevented the FIU from making any indictments.

Arrests and Removals

15. (C) The USG urged the IGOH to move with greater alacrity to arrest and remove drug traffickers. The IGOH has arrested, and in some cases removed a number of important Haitian drug traffickers. Arrested and/or removed drug traffickers in 2004 and early 2005 include:

- Evintz Brilliant
- Jean Vielot
- Fourel Celestin
- Jean Salim Batrony
- Oriel Jean
- Romaine Lestin
- Charles Maxime Lafontan
- Stephanie Ambroise
- Carlos Ovalle
- Eddie Aurillien
- Serg Edouard
- Kenlene Thomas
- Jean Nesly Lucien

The IGOH continues to work closely with the USG to build on

its recent successes.

Asset Seizure

16. (U) The USG pushed the IGOH to seize more money and resources from drug traffickers. In the past year, the IGOH has seized over USD 2.9 million dollars and 20 vehicles owned by drug traffickers. The FIU has been instrumental in exchanging information with the DEA, which has resulted in several high-profile seizures. According to the FIU, the IGOH has seized the following assets:

Name	GDS	USD
-- Edgar Napoleon		283,961.00
-- Frantz Michel Jeanty	289,729.00	7,216.00
-- Marc Gregory Legagneur and UNIPAR S.A. and Dossier Ronald Georges	6,700.00	4,554.00
-- Arnoux Levaud	9,200.00	801,300.00
-- Raymond Panthol and Josphe Julesseus	250.00	19,626.00
-- Carl Henry Julesseus		97,975.00
-- Harold Jean		9,879.00
-- Guito Gourdet		25,584.00

The Haitian National Police

17. (U) The USG has asked for greater HNP cooperation and assistance pursuing drug traffickers and their assets. The HNP has responded by assisting the DEA with its SWAT team and RRU as well as improving DEA access to search warrants. Currently, the IGOH is working to set up a Tactical Response Team as a replacement to the corrupt RRU, which replaced some elements of the corrupt BLTS.

Drug Strategy

18. (C) The USG has asked the IGOH for assistance intercepting drug shipments, particularly incoming shipments from South America, which reach the southern coast of Haiti by air and sea. The IGOH is developing a ten person Special Investigative Unit that will work throughout Haiti. The USG is working with the IGOH and the Government of the Dominican Republic to base three helicopters and 30 BLTS agents in Barahona, Dominican Republic to work with their Dominican counterparts interdicting drug shipments headed to both the Dominican Republic and Haiti from South America. The IGOH has cooperated willingly and is working to secure permission for Haitian agents to accompany the air interdictions. In addition, the IGOH plans to reinforce its anti-drug unit (BLTS) with 90-100 new officers stationed in Cap Haitien (30-35) Les Cayes (30-35) and Jacmel (30-35). Finally, the IGOH is cooperating with the USG to station four DEA agents in Cap Haitien to investigate and intercept drug shipments leaving the northern coast of Haiti for the U.S. and Caribbean distribution points.

FOLEY